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prove invaluable in the future, and, steadily augmenting as it is, serves to make a strong impression upon the houses, helps along difficult features of representation, and remains a strong and permanent testimony of the peace sentiment in Denmark.

Hoping that this may be of interest to the readers of the *ADVOCATE*, I am, yours sincerely,

JOHANNES H. WISBY.

AMONG THE PAPERS.

THE ARBITRATIONISTS' DREAM.

"I believe," said John Bright, in one of his grand perorations in which he spoke like one inspired, "I believe we shall see, and at no very distant time, sound economic principles spreading much more widely among the people; a sense of justice growing up in a soil which hitherto has been deemed unfruitful, and, which will be better than all — the churches of the United Kingdom — the churches of Britain awaking, as it were, from their slumber, and girding up their loins to more glorious work, when they shall not only accept and believe in the prophecy, but labor earnestly for the fulfilment; that there shall come a time — a blessed time — a time which shall last for ever — when 'nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.'" That time is not yet. The churches are laboring in the name of the Prince of Peace much as they did in 1853 when these words were spoken, and it is left for the Workmen's Peace and International Arbitration League to lift up its voice in the political home of John Bright and echo the words of the great Tribune. Last night the League held its annual meeting in Burbury Street Board Schools, and passed its annual report, which recorded the fact that the propagandist activity of the League had been kept up during the past year, and expressed the opinion of the committee that a treaty of arbitration between the United States and this country would point the way to the realization of the great object of the Peace movement. That John Bright's dream will ultimately be realized, who would dare to deny? And that it is a consummation devoutly to be desired every one readily admits. Yet, the voice of this Peace and International Arbitration League, like the voice of the great orator forty years ago, is but the echo of a very faint hope. It is hardly gainsaid that sound economic principles are spreading much more widely amongst the people, and the sense of justice is reaching further into and tearing up the selfishness of individuals. And if the inhabitants of Great Britain and the United States were to be convinced that the era of the millennium would be ushered in by a treaty of arbitration between these two great sections of the Anglo-Saxon race, they might actually assent to hurry the much-desired event along. But for all that the panoply and pomp of war sit heavier on the world at the present moment than ever they did before. The report of the League does not strain metaphor when it says that the state of Europe just now is rather that of an armed truce than one of peace — a condition of things which imposes heavy burdens upon industry. Still, the League maintains its propagandist activity. We cannot help but admire the enthusiasm for

peace which is thus shown. It is something more than enthusiasm, it is faith, for in this matter of peaceable international arbitration taking the place of the arbitrament of war it is certainly the substance of things hoped for, not seen.

And who is there who does not hope for peace on earth? No one. But that it is ever to be brought about by the agency of propagandist activity is a very different thing. We must confess that here our faith trembles. We can not even see how the spread of sound economic principles and the growing sense of justice, upon which John Bright founded his belief of the ultimate triumph of peace is to accomplish the desired end. The fact is that human nature will have to be something very different from what it now is and has always been before the dream of the international arbitrationists will be realized. If ever two powerful peoples were fitted by kinship and national sentiment to bind themselves by arbitration, and to put away the rude and cruel methods of war, surely Great Britain and the United States are. Yet, even here, though the resolution which Mr. Cremer is to propose in the House of Commons in favor of such a thing were to be carried to-morrow, we should be no nearer the hoped for actuality than before. For, at any moment the two Governments might find themselves engaged in a deadly struggle at arms. It is quite true, as the Rev. Arthur O'Neill said at last night's meeting, that international arbitration has now happily become a custom of nations. During the present reign there have been seventy-five cases of it. Yet, on the other hand, the nineteenth century, now drawing to its close, has seen more bloody and costly wars than any other great epoch of time. Not even in the days of the Persian ascendancy, when the whole civilized world had to pay human tribute to Babylon's appetite for slaughter, were there such scenes of wholesale carnage and devastation as have been wrought by armies in this nineteenth century. Take but the great wars of the last half of the century. The Crimean War cost in killed and wounded and the hardships of the campaign 750,000 men and £340,000,000; the American Civil War, in the four years over which it ran, was accountable for 800,000 lives and cost £1,400,000,000; and the Franco-German War, the campaign of which did not extend much over six months and the active fighting not two months, cost 225,000 lives and £500,000,000. The Russo-Turkish War is the latest instance in which European troops have been engaged against each other, and the statistics are not just now available; but it was an even bloodier war than the Franco-German. Take these four great wars alone and leave out all the little wars — of the cost and deadliness of which we in England can speak from experience — and can it be asserted for a moment, as the signs go, that the world is any nearer to the time of peace than ever it was? We think not, and we do not believe it will ever come by means of human agency. Arbitration may, no doubt, and will, increase, but the preparations for war, which are really more burdensome than war itself, will still go on, and wars will continue to be.

This is simply the conclusion to be derived from the incontrovertible weight of facts. Even John Bright, the never-ceasing apostle of peace, though he never spoke in justification of a war, admitted that war might depend on principles which were almost universally acknowledged throughout the world by an overwhelming majority, even of those men who accept Christian religion. And judged

upon those principles he acquitted of blame, if he did not justify, the North in the American Civil War, the bloodiest and costliest of all modern struggles. To make their dream of international arbitration the last resort in the quarrels of nations the Arbitration League would have to break through those principles which are founded on the broad basis of self-preservation. Mr. Frank Wright last night spoke with a fine affectation of contempt about Uganda, where we wanted no occupation, and as little interference as possible, and he also asked what we had got for the £17,000,000 which the Abyssinian campaign cost us, and the lives and treasures we had spent in Egypt. It is with nations as it is with individuals; if they do not go forward they must go backward. And if we were to pass over unnoticed every slight which was put upon us, or even evasion of international obligation towards us, we should soon go backward in the world's race. To keep its place in the ranks in Europe every country must be able not only to claim it but to assert it. An armed peace is the surest guarantee of peace that Europe has just now. But for the state of perfect self-defence in which the opposing forces stand the great war which has been so often predicted in Central Europe, and is still looked forward to, would have been precipitated years ago. Disarmament, if mutually agreed upon, would come as a shower in a thirsty land to all Europe, for the nations are groaning under the terrible burden which this state of armed peace entails. But the probability of laying the racial antagonisms, the long-cherished hatreds, and the bitter ashes of former quarrels, all of which tend towards strife and destruction, and ushering in an era when self-preservation will be secured by the fiat of a peaceful tribunal is too remote to be seen except by the eye of that faith which leans on arbitration. And at present there are really no signs that it will ever get beyond faith in this mundane sphere.—*Birmingham Mail*.

AN APPEAL TO ARBITRATION.

English and American diplomatists may conceivably regret the termination of a voluminous and doubtless interesting correspondence, but every one else concerned will be glad that the long-standing Fishery dispute between this country and the United States is within measurable distance of settlement. The Tribunal of Arbitration which is to meet in Paris next Tuesday, is the outcome of a treaty signed last February whereby the two Powers concerned found themselves compelled to submit their differences to the decision of the law and not of the sword. There are seven members of the Court, two each nominated by the interested parties and one each by the President of the French Republic, the King of Italy and the King of Norway and Sweden. The arbitrators are all pundits, learned in that mysterious science known as international law. There are several abstruse points for consideration, most of them depending on the rights, if any, possessed by Russia in the Behring Sea, and the question of their transfer to the United States when that Power purchased Alaska. All these controversial matters are subsidiary to the main question whether the Behring Sea, which, geographically, is part of the Pacific Ocean, is so likewise from the international-legal standpoint. If it is, the Canadian fishermen have the right to capture seals in its waters outside the three miles limit; if it is not, then the United States has a perfect right to exclude them. What-

ever the verdict, we may be sure it will be loyally accepted by both parties to the dispute, and an old-established source of irritation between them will be removed.—*The Morning (London)*.

A prize fight, or *murder fight*, took place near Syracuse, in this State, last week, which resulted in the death of one of the participants. The fight was clearly contrary to the law of the State, and yet it was not interrupted either by the police or by the sheriff or his deputies. One of the fighters died from a blow he received, and his antagonist has been arrested and held. Under our laws this is a case of manslaughter, and we trust that whatever punishment the law decrees will be visited upon the guilty person, and that those who abetted this violation of the statutes and of the decencies of our civilization will be arraigned and punished as the law provides. These sports, so called, are but one degree removed from the brutality of bull-fights; and it is a shame and disgrace to any State where they are allowed to take place openly, or otherwise, with the knowledge of the peace authorities.—*The Independent*.

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It is true that the destructive capacity of modern war machinery is exceedingly great, but since battles must be fought on solid ground, it is readily seen that no engine of war would have a clear and unobstructed sweep unless all inequalities of earth were levelled beforehand. This element of the inequalities of battle grounds is one that should not be ignored in any consideration of the destructive capacity of modern war machinery.

Another element to be considered is the fallibility of human intelligence and the imperfection of human skill. Before we decide that a perfect gun or other implement of death will operate perfectly, we must have a perfect eye and a perfect hand, and an infallible human intelligence behind the gun.

The fact that in these days a war would involve very great and very general industrial and financial disturbance, would be more likely to prevent conflict than would any consideration of the destructive power of war machinery. In former times the industrial disturbance which war caused was not nearly so general or so profound.

After all, there is very little safety in predictions concerning the possibility of another great war. Wars are brought on by much the same kind of accidents in human conduct that bring about short conflicts between individuals, and while it is not a very gratifying fact to reflect upon, it is nevertheless one that seems easily demonstrable, that what might be considered a slight accident, is often sufficient to bring about conflicts in which whole nations may be concerned. Still for a slight accident to be the occasion for a war between two great nations, there must exist a profound distrust on the part of each of the intentions and objects of the other.

BENJAMIN F. TRUEBLOOD, LL. D.

[Secretary American Peace Society.]

What is to be the outcome of the struggle now going on between the forces of our civilization, which are fast creating the conditions of a permanent and world-wide peace,